



11714 P02  
01/31/03

Att'y Docket No. 11714-P02  
Christopher Evans, et al.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Christopher Evans, et al. Exam. M. Aryanpour  
Serial No. 09/493,871 Group Art Unit: 3711  
Filed: January 28, 2000  
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SOCCER TRAINING AND PRACTICE

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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RESPONSE C

Sir:

Responsive to the action dated 31 July 2002:

TITLE

Please change the title of the application to SOCCER PRACTICE TOOL

DECLARATION

The requirement for a new oath is respectfully traversed. Each signatory inventor speaks for himself and the singular language is appropriate.

CLAIMS

Please add claim 11 as follows:

11. In a soccer ball tether system with an elastic line for tethering a soccer ball to be kicked to an extent allowable by the extended line and returned to an original kicking point,

the improvement comprising,

a tie down stake with a spiral shank portion joined to a circular top ring portion with a handle located at the junction of said portions and projecting orthogonally to the stake and tied thereto and being constructed to enable functioning as a handle for turning the stake to screw the spiral portion into the ground with the handle flat on the ground after full entry of

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the spiral portion into the ground with the handle projecting, and the ring portions projecting above the ground,

a clip link with an operable ring element for clipping and unclipping to the ring portion of the tie down stake, with free motion of the ring element to move around the ring portion, the clip link or having a further ring portion to which the end of the tether line can be reversed, the far end of the tether line having a net bag portion secured thereto via a drawstring, the bag being sized for holding a soccer ball, the said further ring portion being rotatable about a central link axis,

the thus improved apparatus having a full range of movement through the air and free open and roll for the soccer ball in the net simulating soccer play, due to the 360° movement range of the complex ring element/turn portion, 360° range of the further ring portion and the drawstring extension between tether line and net bag contained ball. --

### REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 7-10 and allowance thereof as well as allowance of new claim 11, now presented.

The rejection made in the 31 July action ambiguously applies/does not apply the Schachner reference to modify the Moore reference. See p. 4. This should be clarified.

In any event it is clear that Schachner does not have appropriate teaching to modify Moore to meet the present invention. Moore and Schachner both tie into a fixed point on a ball. Schachner has a football not a soccer ball. Moore's multi-strap container for the ball presents the very problem of prior art outlined in the Background portion of the present specification at p. 3, ll. 17-22

Existing prior art devices use straps, sewn overlapping fastenings, metal rings or Velcro closings to hold the ball. All of these coverings on the ball cause an uneven, bumpy feel upon kicking the ball and impede the rolling of the ball when it returns to the player.

Schachner does not cure the problems for Moore and further Schachner divides the tether line into separate length portions with connectors 38, 40 therebetween. Ainscough provides a net 14 and a string 16 as an extension of it that is an inelastic tether line but no separate tether line that can extend to variable lengths to accommodate a full range of